Mission, Strategies and Actions

Mission Statement

The Ministry provides leadership and resources to foster a high quality advanced education and training system, and provides employment and immigration services to develop a workforce that responds to the needs of Saskatchewan's people and economy.

Strategy

Develop and implement a provincial strategy for First Nations and Métis people to increase participation and success in advanced education and the labour force.

Key Actions

- Support completion of the report of the Joint Task Force on First Nations and Métis Education and Employment, review report and initiate response to recommendations to increase First Nations and Métis participation and success in education and the labour force.
- In partnership with the Department of Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada and provincial tribal councils, increase labour force participation for First Nations people by supporting delivery of on-reserve active measures such as youth career planning and skills development, short-term training and partnerships with industry and public sector to develop training and employment opportunities.
- Provide leadership within the post-secondary sector to encourage the design and implementation of a range of actions to increase the participation and success of First Nations and Métis people in education and monitor progress towards this objective.
- Continue implementation of the revised approach to Adult Basic Education and Skills Training programs that are community-based, focus on literacy and numeracy, and improve employment outcomes.

Photo Credit: Enterprise Saskatchewan, Greg Huszar Photography, Mosaic Belle Plaine site

Strategy

Ensure a skilled workforce to meet existing and future labour market demand.

Key Actions

- In partnership with Enterprise Saskatchewan and the Saskatchewan Chamber of Commerce, continue the work of the Labour Market Task Force.
- In partnership with Enterprise Saskatchewan, develop and begin implementation of a Saskatchewan Labour Market Strategy.
- Nominate 4,000 immigrants under the Saskatchewan Immigrant Nominee Program (SINP) to help meet the labour market needs of employers.
- Facilitate the assessment and recognition of international qualifications to support newcomers to use their education, skills and work experience.
- Support the expansion of training seats for health professionals by adding new training seats for nurse practitioners.
- Educate employers and inform and further protect newcomers about their employment-related rights and responsibilities.
- Provide training programs to meet the labour market needs of employers across various sectors of the provincial economy, including but not limited to mining, health, childcare, construction and oil and gas.
- Provide work readiness and lifeskills programs for those with barriers to employment and assist individuals in achieving sustainable employment.
- Actively support the Ministry's obligations under the New West Partnership.

Strategy

Support an accessible, excellent, innovative and accountable advanced education system that is responsive to learners' needs and contributes to an innovative economy.

Key Actions

- Implement the Action Plan on Accountability and Governance for Post-Secondary Institutions in partnership with publicly funded post-secondary institutions.
- Support research and innovation by continuing to invest in initiatives such as the International Vaccine Center (InterVac), Canadian Light Source (CLS) synchrotron, the Canada Excellence Research Chair (CERC) in Water Security and the Innovation and Science Fund (ISF).
- Implement the Ministry response to the Regional Colleges Review.
- Implement legislative changes to expand degree-granting status to post-secondary institutions beyond the Universities of Saskatchewan and Regina and establish the supporting Quality Assurance review process.
- Support post-secondary infrastructure by providing oversight to capital priorities approved by government.

Photo Credit: Tourism Saskatchewan, Hans-Gerhard Pfaff, Downtown Regina

Strategy

Support increased attraction and retention of newcomers to Saskatchewan.

Key Actions

- Continue delivery of the Immigration Strategy including:
  - Supporting Stage 1 English to assist newcomers to develop basic, functional language skills;
  - Supporting the Regional Newcomers Gateway Program to provide regional settlement and integration information through referral centres located in 11 Saskatchewan communities; and,
  - Building capacity for service providers to deliver a broader array of settlement programs to a more diverse immigrant population and supporting communities to integrate new immigrants.
- Implement the International Education Strategy.

Strategy

Support accessible and affordable post-secondary education for Saskatchewan students.

Key Actions

- Develop an affordability and accessibility strategy for Saskatchewan students.
- Develop and implement a student housing strategy, including providing funding for a feasibility study for University of Regina student residence.
- Work with post-secondary institutions to maintain tuition affordability for learners.
- Support eligible learners with financial needs to participate and be successful in advanced education.
- Continue to support the Saskatchewan Innovation and Opportunity Scholarship fund matched by funds raised by post-secondary institutions, the private sector and community-based partners.
- Provide up to $2,000 (maximum $500 per year) to Saskatchewan high school graduates to be applied towards tuition fees at any Saskatchewan post-secondary institution or recognized training course.
- Initiate development of the Saskatchewan Advantage Grant for Education Savings to match up to 10% of the annual contribution to a Saskatchewan child's Registered Education Savings Plan to a maximum of $250 annually.
- Forgive up to $120,000 in Saskatchewan student loans for doctors and $20,000 in Saskatchewan student loans for nurses and nurse practitioners that practice for five years in underserved rural and remote communities.

Photo Credit: Tourism Saskatoon, City of Bridges

Strategy

Improve the effectiveness and efficiency of the Ministry's programs, services, and systems to ensure the best use of public funds.

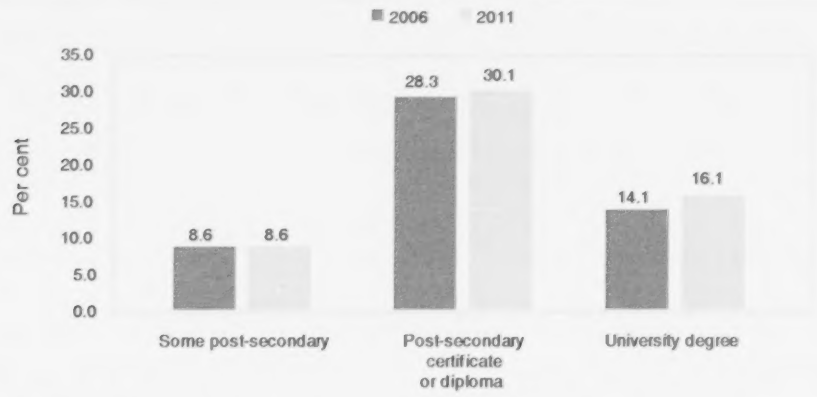
Key Actions

- In partnership with Human Resources and Skills Development Canada, complete the Labour Market Agreement Evaluation.
- Evaluate the success of the Saskatchewan Immigrant Nominee Program to build upon its strengths.
- Continue activities to support Public Service Renewal and achieve organizational excellence by:
  - Continuing to implement the results of the Ministry's organizational review;
  - Continuing to implement Lean methodology and embedding it in the organizational culture of the Ministry;
  - Embedding Enterprise Risk Management processes across the Ministry; and,
  - Focusing on citizen-centered delivery of programs and services.

Performance Measures

Measure

Post-secondary Educational Attainment of Population aged 15 years and over and Labour Force Attachment by Credential



Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey

Employment Rate (%) by Education Level, Population Aged 15 Years and Over, Saskatchewan, 2006 to 2011

Education level	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Total, all education levels	65.6	66.6	66.8	66.7	66.3	65.7
Not completed high school	42.3	43.3	42.5	40.7	40.3	40.2
High school graduate	73.6	74.3	73.1	72.5	71.9	70.2
Some post-secondary	68.3	69.7	70.0	69.1	67.9	67.0
Post-secondary certificate or diploma	73.6	73.9	75.5	75.0	74.4	74.1
University degree	80.1	80.9	79.3	80.9	79.6	78.4

Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey

Measure Description

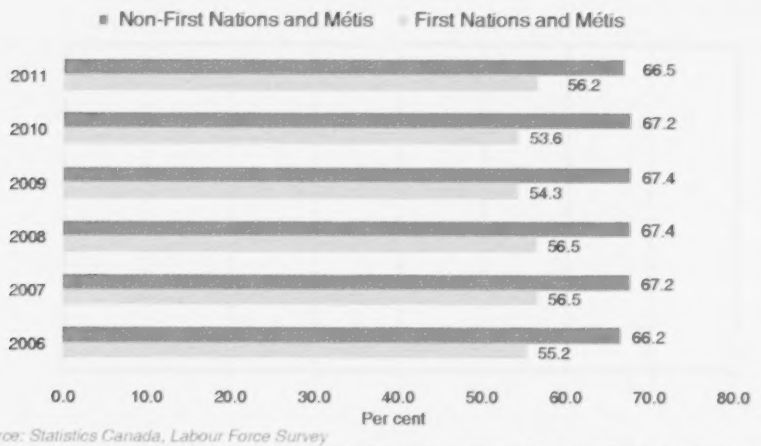
These indicators reflect the critical importance of educational attainment and its relationship to employment. Studies show that individuals with higher levels of educational attainment are more likely to have higher wages, higher rates of employment, shorter periods of unemployment and better health outcomes. Education is also a key component of productivity growth, which in turn results in a higher standard of living, and supports the Government goal of growth and opportunity.

The post-secondary educational attainment measure identifies the educational attainment of the Province's population aged 15 years and older. Data from Statistics Canada's Labour Force Survey indicates that the education attainment of Saskatchewan's labour force has risen between 2006 and 2011.

Photo Credit: Enterprise Saskatchewan, photo by Cal Fehr, Cameco's McArthur River mine site

Measure

Employment rate of off-reserve First Nations and Métis and non-First Nations and Métis populations aged 15 years and over



Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey
Note: Statistics Canada's Labour Force Survey is the most reliable source of annual Aboriginal labour force characteristics, but includes information for off-reserve First Nations only. The employment rate for the non-Aboriginal population is based on a larger sample size and therefore has a higher degree of statistical reliability than that for First Nations and Métis people.

As at February 2012:

- Employment for First Nations and Métis people has seen nine consecutive months of year-over-year increases
  - February 2012 saw a 17.4 per cent year-over-year increase.
- First Nations and Métis youth have seen four consecutive months of year-over-year employment increases.
  - February 2012 saw a 17.1 per cent year-over-year increase.
- These increases represent a significant first step in government's effort to close the First Nations and Métis employment gap.

Measure Description

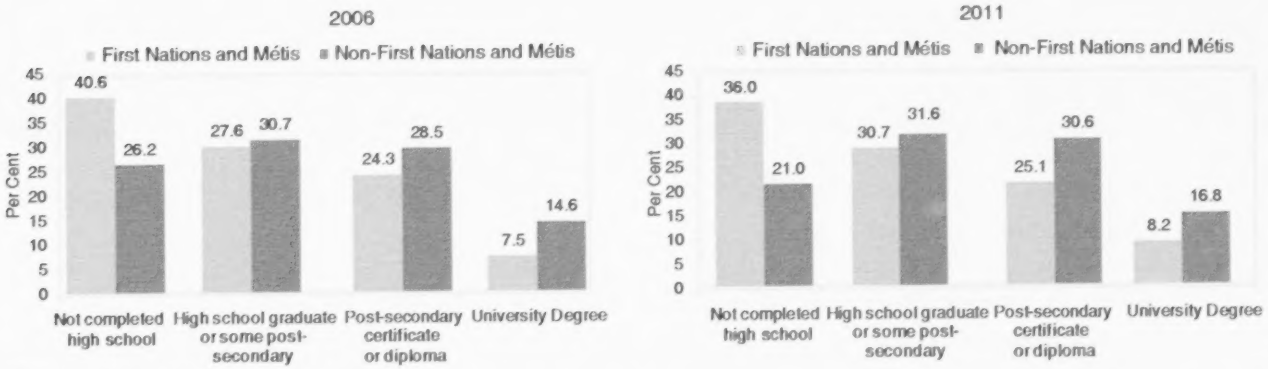
Increased First Nations and Métis employment is critical to achieving Government's goal of growth and opportunity. Between 2006 and 2011, the gap in employment rates between First Nations and Métis people and non-First Nations and Métis people remained. One of the factors that results in lower First Nations and Métis employment rates is lower levels of educational attainment.

Government can influence this measure by working with its partners to address the factors impacting the education and employment outcomes for First Nations and Métis people. These include improving basic skills, establishing links to employment and providing needed supports.

Photo Credit: Ministry of Tourism, Parks, Culture and Sport, photo by Paul Austring, Buffalo Narrows

Measure

Educational attainment of First Nations and Métis and non-First Nations and Métis populations aged 15 years and over



Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey
Note: Statistics Canada's Labour Force Survey is the most reliable source of annual Aboriginal labour force characteristics, but includes information for off-reserve First Nations only. The educational attainment of the non-Aboriginal population is based on a larger sample size and therefore has a higher degree on statistical reliability than that for First Nations and Métis people.

Measure Description

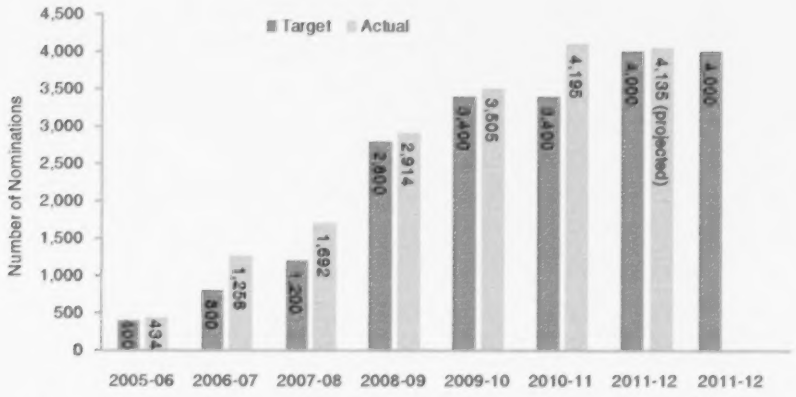
Higher educational attainment is an important factor in gaining and maintaining employment and supports Government's goal of growth and opportunity. Individuals with higher levels of educational attainment are more likely to have higher wages, shorter periods of unemployment and better health outcomes. However, because education levels change slowly over time, data should be analyzed over a period of time. The First Nations and Métis population continues to lag behind the non-First Nations and Métis population in the completion of high school and post-secondary education. With a young and growing First Nations and Métis population, it is essential that supports are in place to help ensure increasing numbers of First Nations and Métis youth complete high school, are successful in post-secondary education and enter the workforce.

Government can influence this measure by working with its partners to address the factors impacting the education and employment outcomes for First Nations and Métis people. These include improving basic skills, establishing links to employment and providing needed supports.

Photo Credit: Ministry of Advanced Education, Employment and Immigration

Measure

Number of Saskatchewan Immigrant Nominee Program Nominees



Source: Advanced Education, Employment and Immigration

Measure Description

The measure illustrates the level of activity in the Saskatchewan Immigrant Nominee Program (SINP). The SINP attracts skilled workers, entrepreneurs and their families by linking them with employment and economic development opportunities and, in doing so, supports the Government goal of growth and opportunity. There are multiple factors that influence the number of applications and subsequent nominations under the SINP and as a result impact immigration rates to the province. These factors include availability of jobs, size of immigrant cultural group and awareness of the SINP. The increase in SINP nominations since 2005-06 is due in part to strong labour market demand, the expansion of SINP categories and increased use of the SINP by Saskatchewan employers.

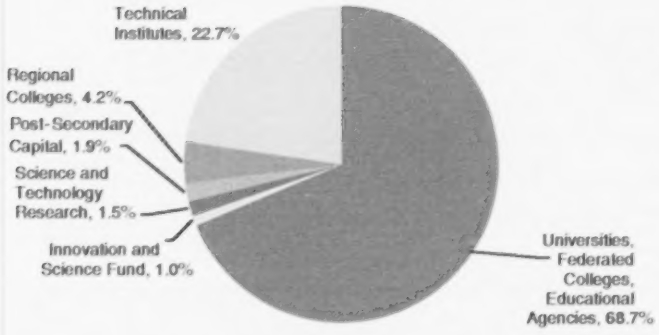
The SINP has a target of 4,000 nominations for the 2012-13 fiscal year. SINP data is collected by the Ministry. The Ministry has a moderate level of influence on this measure as it is in part dependent on the involvement of the federal government and cooperation of participating employers.

Financial Summary

2012-13 Estimates	(in thousands of dollars)
Central Management and Services	17,778
Student Supports	107,028
Post-Secondary Education	642,131
Immigration	12,771
Labour Force Development	108,945
Major Capital Asset Acquisitions	
Total Appropriation	888,653
Capital Asset Acquisitions	
Capital Asset Amortizations	1,945
Total Expense	890,598
FTE Staff Complement	389.6

For more information, see the Budget Estimates at: http://www.finance.gov.sk.ca/budget2012-13

AEEI- Post-Secondary Education ($639 million)


Technical Institutes, 22.7%
Regional Colleges, 4.2%
Post-Secondary Capital, 1.9%
Science and Technology Research, 1.5%
Innovation and Science Fund, 1.0%
Universities, Federated Colleges, Educational Agencies, 68.7%

AEEI Budget ($891 million)

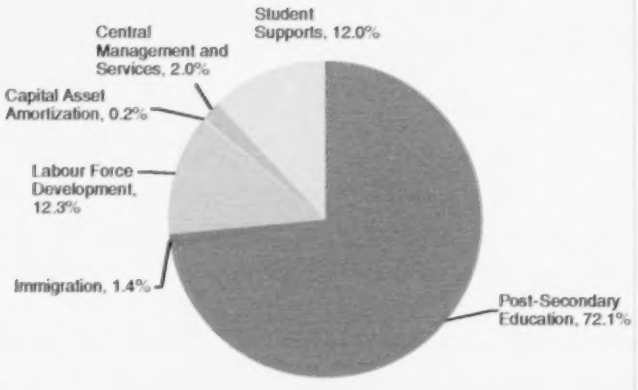


Photo Credit: Ministry of Advanced Education, Employment and Immigration

Highlights

Overall 2012-13 budget of $890.6M, an increase of 4.1 per cent.

- $639.5 million in funding to post-secondary institutions.
- $107 million in support for students through such programs as Student Loans, Bursaries, Provincial Training Allowance, Apprentice Training Allowance, Skills Training Benefit, Graduate Retention Program and scholarships.
- $109 million for skills training and labour force development – building on our commitment to meet the province's talent challenge.
- $47 million to continue supporting post-secondary education and skills training for First Nations and Métis people.
- A new Saskatchewan Advantage Scholarship offering $500 a year to new Grade 12 graduates who attend a Saskatchewan post-secondary institution to a maximum of $2,000, bringing our total investment in scholarships to almost $10 million.
- Forgiving Saskatchewan student loans of up to $120,000 for new doctors and up to $20,000 for new nurses and nurse practitioners that practice in under-served rural and remote communities for five years.
- The new Saskatchewan Advantage Grant for Education Savings will come into effect in January 2013, providing a 10 per cent matching grant to Registered Education Saving Plan (RESP) contributions, to a maximum of $250 per child per year.
- $13 million to continue delivering the successful Saskatchewan Immigrant Nominee Program and providing settlement and integration services and supports for newcomers.
- $17 million for the International Vaccine Centre, Canadian Light Source, Water Research Chair and other science and innovation initiatives.
- $1 million to support planning for a new student residence, child care facilities and a parkade at the University of Regina.
- $1 million for the continued construction of the new Southeast Regional College.
- $13.5 million to fulfill our commitment to train 300 additional nurses and 100 additional physicians a year, and to start on our commitment to increase the number of nurse practitioner seats by 20, with an initial five seats.

For More Information

Please visit the Ministry's website at www.aeei.gov.sk.ca, or call (306) 787-9478 for more information on the Ministry's programs and services.

Front Page Photo Credits

Canola and flax fields	*Biking, Narrow Hills Provincial Park*	*Motherwell Homestead National Historic Site of Canada*	*Saskatchewan Legislative Building*
Photographer, Charles Melnick	*Greg Huszar Photography*	*Greg Huszar Photography*	*Greg Huszar Photography*